

THE ORDER OF THE ESSENES

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WINDOWS AND DOORS TO THE MIND: -

Experience, which is held so highly and is really valuable, is in fact nothing more than lessons learned through mistakes and errors. Defeat is fatal only when you swallow it. Then, why brood over mistakes? Let errors breed self-confidence, not destroy it. All make mistakes - so soften your judgment of others - that builds a "good heart" and to such hearts omniscience becomes available.

We hear much of the man of "good will." "Good will" is the modern - "God will" is the ancestor - the original. "Peace on earth to men of good will" properly understood means that one of that temperament has a window of the mind open, and thus an entrance way for universal mind is available! The good within attracts the good without. Thus peace is multiplied.

There is no period in the life of an individual so dark and clouded when there are not some or many things for which to be grateful. Gratitude has a way of opening the doors of the mind to inspiration - the healing balm, and the guiding light.

These are just a few suggestions calculated to impress you with the fact that the set of the mind has everything to do with your well-being.

If you can, like Mary Pickford, as related in Instruction 115, just carry with you a conviction, and an ever-present consciousness of your oneness with a great intelligence, there will be a smoothing out of your affairs. Ideas - ideas of practical value - will flow to you in a never ending stream.

The technique is simple - just a mental house cleaning job. Then anticipation of the right answers - confidence they will appear - faith there is an answer in the universal - and certainty that you, the real you, is life - and life is universal and you are a part of the whole - and you are but claiming your own! To feel grateful for the answer helps to speed its coming.

Perhaps Instruction 115 will help to lift your spirits, and the light will shine through. It has done it for many.

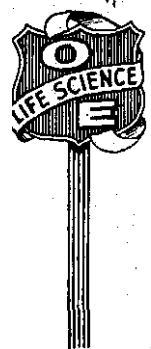
Maybe, like the soldier says, "your number is up for this experience." - It can be.

Peace be with you. May you demonstrate the truth - and thus help spread understanding to a world in need. When individual peace is universal, then the world's problems are solved.

Very sincerely yours,

S. Hamur Davis

#115



THE Essenes

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INSTRUCTION 115

Assuring to the Acceptable and Accepted
HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST MINDS HAVE PROVED BEYOND A
DOUBT THAT A WELL ADAPTED ORGANISM THRIVES, AN
ILL-ADAPTED ONE DECLINES AND EVENTUALLY DISAPPEARS.

THIS MEANS THAT THE WORLD IS KIND TO ALL THAT LIVE
AND IS ESPECIALLY SO TO THOSE WHO LEARN NATURE'S
LAWS AND FOLLOW THEM.

THERE IS NO IRREVOCABLE FATE OVER WHICH WE HAVE NO
CONTROL. EFFORT IS MEANINGFUL. MIND ABOVE ALL THINGS
IS OUR ADAPTER.

THE REMAINDER OF OUR LIVES WE MUST SPEND IN THE
FUTURE. MOURN NOT THE PAST - NOTHING CAN CHANGE IT.

THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS TO MAKE OR MAR. -- ADAPT;

SUCCESS TO YOU!

Orientation means consciousness or recognition of one's environment or the general situation in which one exists. It is well to frequently find ourselves - to so far as possible reconcile and harmonize our new understanding with age old beliefs, and thus endeavor to discover where possible the truths often difficult to discern by reason of the use of symbols and parables, or perhaps buried beneath verbiage used by speaker or author, who through a sense of ego sought elegance of expression or through a lack of understanding endeavored to mystify as he was mystified.

Harold S. Kahn in Mind Digest gives a clear-cut picture of a question which often presents itself to many. He says: "Men often ask the question, 'Why are we here? For what purpose were we placed on this earth? Why were we created?'

"Questions such as these are seldom asked merely from curiosity, or intellectual interest. They spring from the heart of a man who feels the lack of purpose in his life, who is overcome with a sense of futility and boredom. He does not ask a question so much as he utters a complaint."

"He feels, all too often, that his life is an empty round of eating, working, sleeping, and the pursuit of empty pleasures that somehow leave him restless and dissatisfied. He has a hundred unfulfilled dreams and desires. He sees himself getting older, advancing inexorably toward the grave, with his dearest ambitions unrealized and disappointment his constant companion. How readily he comes to question the reason for his existence! 'If this is all there is to living, why was I given life?' he asks at last, reflecting his attitude of defeatism."

"That attitude is often justified, for there is nothing so empty and so lacking in satisfaction as a life without a purpose - a purpose high enough and compelling enough to fill every waking hour with zest and enjoyment and inspiring courage."

A logical sequence to the question Kahn so accurately describes is another question framed like this -- "Life Science is wonderful for the here and now, but little is said of the hereafter. For one who wonders, 'What is the object of life?' - 'What's it all about?' - 'Do you take away the possible consolation of the orthodox heaven and life hereafter?'"

The direct answer to that is NO.

If there is any one thing that we do teach it is that life is continuous. Life - your life - did not begin with you, nor did your father's life begin with him.

In the very beginning we pointed out that not one atom of the material you was the same as the material you of youth - and that a few months or a few years hence there will not be one molecule of the material you the same as today. Yet through the material changes you live right on - so we must inevitably conclude and can KNOW - not merely believe - that life is not tied to the material.

Einstein, one of the wisest of modern men and a scientist among scientists, says: "It is enough for me to contemplate the mystery of conscious life perpetuating itself through all eternity, to reflect upon the marvelous structure of the Universe which we can dimly perceive, and to try humbly to comprehend even an infinitesimal part of the INTELLIGENCE manifested in nature."

Nobel Prize winners in scientific fields, such as Robert A. Milliken, and Arthur H. Compton, a physicist, have reasoned to their own satisfaction

and the satisfaction of reasoning minds that life is continuous.

But to attempt to describe this after life - the hereafter - would be drawing upon the imagination. Some might get consolation from streets of gold - gates of pearl - and the strumming of harps - and ministration by angels wearing wings. But gold, pearls, harps and wings are very material things. Among material things, golf courses, fish and game, golf clubs, fishing poles and reels and guns might more nearly answer the ideal heaven to the imagination of some.

There is this we know -- Life has been progressing ever upward - a hereafter must be a progressive step. Among our notes we find this: (Author not noted).

"Man, immersed in the self-conscious state, developed his sense of individualism, but it became a separative thing. The consciousness of self brings a consciousness of that which is not self -- of differences rather than of likenesses. This develops a sense of separateness from each other and from the Source. Man, centered around himself, became an exile from the whole. This made the little personal self the center and motivation of all activity, and the result has been disunity, discord, disease and death."

"We realize ourselves as centers in a great Self from which we have never been separated. We recognize that we are channels for this one Power which is differentiated through us and creative in us. We see that our mistaken concept of separation and the false assumption of power to ourselves has brought us all the discord and inharmony, on whatever plane it is manifest, and that this change in consciousness to the realization of unity dissolves all the discord."

"The meaning of the word 'religion' is 'to bind back,' taken from the Latin re-ligare, and it is born of man's mistaken sense of separation. It is his attempt, through creeds and rituals and ceremonials, to establish himself again in the one Life. This 'new thought' does not teach a way back. We have never been separated. It is not a creed to believe; it is a life to live. It is not a ritual; it is an experience. It is not a ceremonial, petitioning or placating life; it is a consciousness that we are life. It is not a hope for a heaven after this life; it is finding heaven within; a state of consciousness, not a place, and in the here and now."

"The world seems to be approaching a crisis of utter dissolution of the old individualism. This old way has lost its power. It is failing to function in our cultural, economic, even in our spiritual life, as witness the breakdown of orthodox religion in this day. Man is desperately seeking some sort of unity in which he may function."

We have no quarrel with orthodox religion. We do believe that a religion worthy of universal mind, and a faith or philosophy worthy of adoption by man should heal, enlighten, guide and protect us. The question is, do we or do we not have a guiding force capable of protecting and assisting us in all our needs? The answer is definitely YES. The seeking is and must be for the technique of making the contact and drawing upon the universal --- and such a quest is really successful only when we adhere consistently to an enlightening process of personal betterment and self realization. This leads to reliance upon the unity of man and omniscience and omnipotence - and it works.

Man then does not ask about or fear the future. He knows he is and will ever be a part of the universal - and that it is without end - and while

upon this earth he is but a medium of expression - that he plays a part in the symphony of the ages - and he ever tries to do and give his best.

From a musical publication (author unknown - marked Contributed) this was sent to us - headed LIFE:

"To love justice, to long for the right, to love mercy, to assist the weak, to forget wrongs and remember benefits, to love the truth, to be sincere, to utter honest words, to love liberty, to wage relentless war against slavery in all its forms, to love wife and child and friend, to make a happy home, to love the beautiful in art, in nature; to cultivate the mind, to be familiar with the mighty thoughts that genius has expressed, the noble deeds of all the world, to cultivate courage and cheerfulness, to make others happy, to fill life with the splendor of generous acts, the warmth of loving words; to discard error, to destroy prejudice, to receive new truths with gladness, to cultivate hope, to see the calm beyond the storm, the dawn beyond the night; to do the best that can be done, and then be resigned --- this is the religion of reason, the creed of science. This satisfies the brain and heart."

That in itself is a sermon. -- That is a creed worthy of man. Countless are the lessons in Life Science written by countless people who conceive that worship is a form of consciousness, an attitude toward life and fellow man, and that progress here on this earth is but a part of the progress through eternity.

James Henry Leigh Hunt preached a deathless sermon in his poem, "Abou Ben Adhem."

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
And saw, within the moonlight in his room,
Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,
An Angel writing in a book of gold:
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold;
And to the Presence in the room he said,
"What writest thou?" The Vision raised its head,
And with a look made of all sweet accord
Answered, "The names of those who love the Lord."

"And is mine one?" said Abou... "Nay, not so,"
Replied the Angel. Abou spoke more low,
But cheerly still; and said, "I pray thee, then,
Write me as one that loves his fellowmen."
The Angel wrote, and vanished. The next night
It came again with a great wakening light,
And showed the names whom love of God had
blessed,
And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest!

We all know of Mary Pickford as a great actress - a screen artist without a peer and a charming person - but none of us have thought of her as a religionist.

We reprint from Your Faith, March 1939, an article by her. In reading it note how closely she hews to that which we teach. It is a lesson in effective praying and a beautiful explanation of an all pervading intelligence available to all!

WHY NOT TRY GOD?

If you had a million dollars in the bank but didn't know how to write a check, it wouldn't do you much good, would it?

If you had a car in your garage but had lost the key with which to start it, you wouldn't get anywhere very fast, would you?

That's about the way humanity is operating today.

Quite a few years ago, when I was unhappy and greatly troubled, I found out how I could call upon a power that, if I used the right key, would always give me everything I needed.

Today I know more than ever that there is a beneficent power available to me which will always comfort me and guide me and allow me to be happy, even amid troubles and heartbreaks.

I found out about the power of right thinking.

Of course I have always thought it was well to be cheerful if you could, to be brave in the face of danger. But I didn't know then what I found out later: That right thinking is a power, the power with which you tune in to God, and that it can actually change conditions of every kind, no matter how serious and complicated they may seem.

God ceased being a formidable deity up in the skies. Instead, He came to be an all-wise, loving, friendly Presence, filling all space everywhere. Then I began looking for the God-element in people, in circumstances and events; and the more I looked, the more I found and correspondingly, the greater happiness I experienced.

God became not only my Big Boss, but my unseen Good Companion, my Silent Partner, my Counselor. He was always by my side.

All the good there is can be ours right now if we but tune in with God. But we can't get any more good out of the power of God unless we do tune in than we can get out of electricity if we don't turn on the switch.

Charles Steinmetz, the great electrical genius, once said, "Some day people will learn that material things do not bring happiness. When this day comes the world will see more advancement in one generation than it has in the past four."

Why shouldn't we be that generation? Why shouldn't that time be now?

For too long a time we have followed the jungle method of the survival of the fittest -- fighting, struggling, ruthless and cruel. Result? Despair, confusion, economic wreckage and almost utter collapse under trials.

Nearly all of us have our trials and tribulations.

Why not try God?

The life of each one of us is a continual process of thought. When we think, we experience; when we don't think, we "just ain't."

When our thinking is clear enough we become a transparency for God, or the Mind of the universe, to shine through. Then we experience good results and we have real and lasting prosperity, success, happiness and health. But when we are not tuned in, then trouble comes to us.

A very remarkable woman whom I know lost her husband. They had been very much in love and extremely happy. When I saw her some weeks later she radiated a tranquility and confidence which was inspiring. I asked her how she had achieved it. She said, "All the water in the world cannot sink a ship unless it gets inside the ship. All the sorrow in the world cannot sink a person unless it gets inside the mind. I have kept my mind so full of good thoughts, so full of thoughts for others, that there hasn't been any room for sorrow and self-pity to get in."

I have been glad many times since then that she told me, because I have found that it works. And the more difficult the problem the harder I try to find the God-element, or the good-element, in people and things, and the more I try to think about others as I would have them think about me. For, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

So, right where you are at this very minute, no matter how black and difficult your situation, you have one priceless possession. You can think. And if you have thought your way into any kind of trouble, you can turn at any time you choose and think your way out again. Nothing can hold you there but your thinking.

Sir James Jeans, the great scientist, has said, "It may be, it seems to me, that each individual consciousness is a brain cell in a universal mind."

Isn't that fascinating? Each of us a part of a vast, cosmic intelligence! Each of us necessary in his place, no matter where that may be, for the eternal Mind to function through!

Now what connects us with God? Our thoughts. What gives us the use of that great power which has put upon this planet all that every one of needs forever? Our thinking.

God is a twenty-four-hour station. All you need to do is plug in. You plug in with your thinking. Truthful thinking. Good thinking. Kind thinking. Unselfish thinking. And then you can have and use all the love, all the power, all the courage, all the energy, all the cheerfulness, all the activity and all the kindness of God. Why wait for heaven when we can have it here? Heaven is within -- it is within our thinking.

If we are irritated, doubtful, fearful, angry, resentful or worried, we are expecting evil. We have opened the door for it and that is what we will get. That formula will bring its inevitable results.

If we are happy, courageous, cheerful, unselfish and sure of our rights as God's children, that formula will have its results too. Faith is the expectancy of good. Fear is the expectancy of evil.

So why not start now expecting good, expecting health, expecting plenty, expecting happiness? You rule your human experiences with your thought. You preside with dictatorial power over your private world of consciousness. And you rule ably or badly, according to the quality of thinking that you alone permit to go on.

The only way that mind can move is through thought, through your thought. And the Mind which created everything, which guides everything and which sustains everything will move for you, work for you, bring your purposes to pass and your prayers to fulfillment, if you will but do your part.

Most of us want to live in a world of goodness, of love, of friendliness, of happiness, of contentment, of abundance, of success, of joy and harmonious relationships, and more and more I am coming to see that if we would experience these things, each of us must first of all plant them in our individual worlds of thought. For, "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

The kingdom of God is -- where? Up in the clouds? Over on the other side of the mountain? Beyond the experience called death? Not at all. "The kingdom of God is within you. Could anything be plainer than that?

The biggest thrill you will ever get will be when you see that you have accomplished a great purpose through right thinking.

"One with God is a majority."

We've all read sentences like this. Some of us have even believed them. But have we practically and in our own everyday existence ever made them work, ever demonstrated them? What's the good of God if He won't help us to meet the rent, to get a job, to be happy, -- if He isn't available every moment of the day to us?

The great power which created the I am within you is always available.

Back of the glamor that motion pictures have thrown around me, I am just an average, hopeful, prayerful woman. I have had many griefs and many trials in my life. I started - as we all seem to start - full of fear, full of distresses, worrying and fretting, carrying burdens that didn't belong to me. I had to stop trying to be Atlas and carrying the world on my shoulders, to stop wearing the captain's cap and let God do the navigating.

Please know that what I have said here is said in all humility and because I have proved it.

I haven't solved all my problems as yet, but I shall, for I have learned that as I take care of my thinking, my thinking takes care of me.

Isn't it worth trying?

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Orientation! We do believe in a hereafter and a heretofore. We do believe in omnipotence and omniscience and that it is omnipresent and to call it God is to harmonize with age-old teachings. We do believe in prayer (earnest desire) and its effectiveness --- and above all, we believe in you - the student - who has faithfully studied one hundred and fifteen instructions. -- It must dawn upon you that you are a part of the universal. -- Let it be available - and put yourself in the attitude of world service and thus you become available as a medium of the universal. -- There is no defeat for this combination. -- Success to you!

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